

Q3  
stable competent cells, wherein said cells are suspended in the liquid state immediately prior to said drying.

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Q3  
22. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said glass-forming matrix material comprises at least one carbohydrate.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein said at least one carbohydrate comprises a saccharide.

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Q4  
57. (Amended) The composition of claim 47, wherein the transformation efficiency of said cells comprises at least  $10^6$  transformants/ $\mu$ g DNA.

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Please add new claims 81 and 82 as follows:

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Q5  
81. (New) A method for generating storage-stable competent cells, which comprises drying competent cells at a temperature greater than freezing so as to generate storage-stable competent cells, wherein said cells are not frozen immediately prior to said drying.

82. (New) The method of claim 81 wherein said cells are not frozen at least one minute prior to said drying.

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#### REMARKS

Claims 1-80 are pending. As a result of this amendment, claims 1, 22, 23 and 57 are amended. New claims 81 and 82 are added herein. Claims 4, 42, 44 and 75-77 are stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Amendments add no new matter.

New claims 80 and 81 find support throughout the specification, but specifically at page 3, lines 2-7 and page 13, lines 15-18. The new claims add no new matter.

#### Claim Objections:

Claims 56 and 57 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as being duplicates of one another. Applicants have herein amended claim 57 to recite "at least  $10^6$  transformants/ $\mu$ g DNA." The amendment distinguishes claim 57 from claim 56, which